

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ANTIMONY IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2001

Prices for most forms of antimony remained fairly steady during the third quarter of 2001. The New York dealer price range for antimony metal, published by Platts Metals Week, started and ended the quarter at \$0.62 to \$0.66 per pound.

The price range of high tint antimony trioxide, published by American Metal Market, started and ended the quarter at \$0.85 to \$1.25 per pound.

The price range for clean antimony sulfide concentrate, published by Metal Bulletin, started the quarter at \$8.00 to \$8.75 per metric ton unit and ended the quarter at \$7.00 to \$8.00 per metric ton unit. The price range for lump antimony sulfide ore (60% antimony content) started the quarter at \$8.00 to \$8.75 per metric ton unit and ended the quarter at \$7.00 to \$8.00 per metric ton unit.

Industry observers noted that antimony supplies are tightening in the United States as key producers in China

reduce deliveries. All mining in China's Guangxi province has been suspended following a fatal accident at Longquan Mining Co. in July, estimated to have killed 80 workers. The region accounts for 80% of the world's antimony supply (American Metal Market, 2001).

It was reported that a new firm called Essen has been established in Houston, TX, to market antimony trioxide and other antimony specialty chemicals produced in China (Ryan's Notes, 2001).

### References Cited

American Metal Market, 2001, Guangxi aftermath boosts tags on antimony despite low sales: American Metal Market, v. 109, no. 163, August 22, p. 4.  
Ryan's Notes, 2001, Sb prices stagnant: Ryan's Notes, v. 7, no. 36, September 3, p. 3.

TABLE 1  
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content, unless otherwise specified)

	2000	2001		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Production:				
Primary smelter 2/	20,900	W	W	W
Secondary	7,920	1,630	1,680	1,510
Imports for consumption:	41,600	11,000	9,770	4,170 3/
Ore and concentrate	3,690	983	794	376 3/ 4/
Metal	14,200	2,420	2,930	1,400 3/ 4/
Oxide 5/	23,700	7,570	6,040	2,390 3/
Exports:	8,350	2,900	2,900	1,040 3/
Metal, alloys, and scrap	1,080	579	232	160 3/
Oxide 5/	6,040	2,330	1,030	593 3/
Consumption of primary antimony	16,700	4,380 r/	3,790 r/	3,810
Price: Average cents per pound 6/	65.50	69.03	68.53	60.62
Stocks, end of period 7/	10,300	8,890	9,190	8,290

r/ Revised. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except prices.

2/ Nearly all smelter output is trioxide.

3/ Data for July and August only.

4/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

5/ Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

6/ New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

7/ Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2  
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY IN THE  
UNITED STATES 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	2001 2/		
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Metal	1,360	1,400	722
Oxide	4,910	5,070	4,940
Other 3/	2,620	2,720	2,630
Total	8,890	9,190	8,290

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 90% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 2000.

3/ Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3  
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	2000	2001 2/		
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter
Metal	1,800	W	418	447
Oxide	14,800	3,910 r/	3,370 r/	3,360
Other 3/	100	472	--	--
Total	16,700	4,380 r/	3,790 r/	3,810

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other." -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 77% of the total antimony in 2000.

3/ Includes sulfide and residues.

TABLE 4  
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF  
MATERIAL PRODUCED 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	2000	2001 2/		
		First quarter r/	Second quarter r/	Third quarter
<b>Metal:</b>				
Bearing metals and bearings	42	W	W	W
Other 3/	2,660	780	680	728
Total	2,700	780	680	728
<b>Nonmetal:</b>				
Ceramics and glass	862	W	W	W
Plastics	1,960	W	W	W
Other 4/	1,290	1,430	964	1,040
Total	4,110	1,430	964	1,040
<b>Flame-retardants:</b>				
Plastics	8,920	1,110	1,050	992
Other 5/	1,010	1,060	1,110	1,050
Total	9,930	2,170	2,150	2,030
Total reported	16,700	4,380	3,790	3,810

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 77% of the total antimony in 2000.

3/ Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, bearing metals and bearings, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

4/ Includes ammunition primers, pigments, ceramics and glass, and plastics.

5/ Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

TABLE 5  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Country	2000	2001					January-August
		First quarter	Second quarter	June	July	August	
<b>Ore and concentrate:</b>							
Australia	1,150	187	127	--	--	--	314
China	1,000	740	499	--	254	--	1,490
Mexico	903	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	636	57	169	141	105	16	346
Total	3,690	983	794	141	360	16	2,150
<b>Metal:</b>							
China	12,500	1,900 2/	1,980	859	829	493	5,200
Hong Kong	206	198	811	--	--	40	1,050
Mexico	801	215	--	--	6	--	221
Peru	210	62	40	--	--	--	103
Singapore	300	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	228	46	99	26	12	23	182
Total	14,200	2,420	2,930	1,090	847	557	6,760
<b>Oxide: 3/</b>							
Belgium	3,070	930	634	227	312	189	2,070
Bolivia 4/	957	--	--	--	--	--	--
China	10,900	3,860	2,810	328	251	193	7,110
France	54	5	2	--	3	1	11
Guatemala 4/	64	--	--	--	--	--	--
Hong Kong	376	151	199	16	33	--	384
Mexico	4,590	2,290	1,120	--	437	602	4,450
South Africa	3,180	296	1,240	317	88	261	1,890
United Kingdom	146	--	--	--	--	--	--
Other	327	46	34	318	11	8	98
Total	23,700	7,570	6,040	1,210	1,140	1,260	16,000
Grand total	41,600	11,000	9,770	11,000	2,340	1,830	24,900
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	45	24	27	13	11	1	63

-- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ All or part of these data have been referred to the U.S. Census Bureau for verification.

3/ Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

4/ Antimony oxide from these countries believed to be "crude" and would probably be shipped to refineries for upgrading.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.